

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1872.

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Report for the Year 1900

BEING THE

TWENTY-SIXTH

ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

SANITARY CONDITION

OF THE

Trowbridge Urban Sanitary District.

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PRESENTED TO THE

Trowbridge Urban District Council

BY

*R. T. RICHARDSON, F.R. INST. P.H.*

Medical Officer of Health of Trowbridge

Urban Sanitary Authority.



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To the Chairman and Members

OF THE

Trowbridge Urban District Council.

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GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you my Eighth Annual Report on the Public Health and Sanitary condition of the District.

The estimated population of the District to the middle of 1900 is 12,560, that at the last census, 1891, being 11,717. The area of the district is 1954 acres.

The number of births registered during the year was 234, 118 males and 116 females ; being a birth-rate of 18·6 per 1000. (England and Wales 28·9 per 1000).

The number of deaths registered during the same period was 171, 76 males and 95 females ; being a death-rate of 13·6 per 1000, which is much below the average for England and Wales (18·3 per 1000).

The deaths among children under one year were 25, a death-rate of 1·99 per 1000 ; and 106·8 per 1000 births.

*Zymotic Disease* was responsible for 5 deaths, (Measles 2, Whooping Cough 1, Diphtheria 1, Membraneous Croup 1).

The number of deaths of persons of 65 years of age and upwards was 76, a death-rate of 6·05 per 1000, 44·4 per cent. of the total deaths, and included 40 between 65 and 75 ; 23—75 and 85 ; and 13—85 and 95.

Summary of the chief points of the year's vital statistics :—

Birth-rate	...	...	...	18·6	per 1000.
Death-rate	...	...	...	13·6	„ „
Zymotic death-rate	...	...	...	0·39	„ „
Death-rate among children under one				1·99	„ „
Proportion of deaths under one to 1000 births	...	...	...	106·8	„ „
Death-rate at 65 and upwards	...			6·05	„ „

There were 17 inquests held during the year, including 4 accidents and 1 suicide.

The water supply during the year has been satisfactory, the amount used per head per diem about 17 gallons, and the supply has been constant.

Samples of the Company's water have been sent to be analysed, both chemically and bacteriologically, by the Clinical Research Association, Limited, and I have received the following Reports on same, viz :—

1. The Specimen of Water received here on January 25th has been duly examined, and I have been instructed to forward the following Report thereon :—

						Grains per gallon.
Total Solid Residue (dried at 120° c.)	..	..	..	..	..	24·22
Combined Chlorine	..	..	..	..	..	1·0
Expressed as Common Salt	..	..	..	..	..	1·6
Nitrogen as Nitrates	..	..	..	..	..	0·32
Nitrites	..	..	..	..	..	Nil.
Saline Ammonia	..	..	..	..	..	A Trace.
Albuminoid Ammonia	..	..	..	..	..	0·001
Oxygen required to oxydise the Organic matter..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil.
Hardness (in degrees)	..	..	..	..	..	20°3
Lead or Copper	..	..	..	..	..	Nil.

OBSERVATIONS.—This is a very satisfactory sample of water, being almost free from organic matter.

C. H. WELLS,  
Secretary of the Association.

2. The specimen of water received here on January 25th has been duly examined, and I have been instructed to forward the following Report thereon :—

The Bacillus Coli Communis was not found in 240 cubic centimetres of this water examined for that micro-organism. It may therefore be concluded that the water is quite free from any animal contamination.

C. H. WELLS,  
Secretary of the Association.



3. The specimen of water received here on January 25th has been duly examined, and I have been instructed to forward the following Report thereon :—

This sample contains 413 organisms per cubic centimetre, but as it was not packed in ice according to instructions, a considerable number must be deducted for multiplication that occurred between collection and receipt at the laboratory.

C. H. WELLS,  
Secretary of the Association.

Upon several occasions during the month of December I noticed the Company's water to be very cloudy when drawn from the tap, in consequence of which I communicated with the County Medical Officer of Health asking him to send me a Report on the analysis of the same, I herewith give his Report thereon :

Wilts County Council,  
County Laboratory,  
Arlington House,  
Trowbridge, Wilts.

Report upon the analysis of a sample of water drawn from the domestic supply at Arlington House, Trowbridge, from the Trowbridge Waterworks Co's public supply, at 2 p.m. on the 31st December, 1900.

	Results expressed in Parts per 100,000.
Total Solids (dissolved and suspended) dried at 120° C. ..	36·5
Suspended Solids removed upon filtration through 3 filter papers ..	5·5
Total Dissolved Solids .. .. .	31·0
Loss upon Ignition of the Total Solids .. .. .	7·5
Free Ammonia .. .. .	·0035
Albuminoid Ammonia .. .. .	·0095
Combined Chlorine .. .. .	1·3
Nitrogen as Nitrites .. .. .	None.
Nitrogen as Nitrates .. .. .	·75
Oxygen required to oxidise Organic Matter .. .. .	·077

REMARKS.—The water upon being drawn from the tap was very turbid and distinctly brown when viewed through a two-foot tube. After standing for some time there was a copious deposit of a yellowish colour, this when examined microscopically proved to be granules of chalk, earthly matter, and organic debris. After a portion of the water was filtered through three layers of fine Swedish filter paper it was decidedly opalescent. The water upon being heated gave off a well marked earthly odour.

This sample contained considerably more than the usual amount of Organic matter, this is evidenced by the increase in the solids, and Free and Albuminoid Ammonia, Nitrates and Oxygen absorbed, indicates that the source of the supply is not sufficiently protected, and surface water which has percolated through or over cultivated land contaminated the supply.

Upon several occasions during the month of December I have observed the Company's water to be turbid when delivered, and to contain at times a considerable amount of suspended matter. It is absolutely necessary that a water of this description should be allowed to settle in a properly constructed Reservoir, and efficiently filtered before it is delivered for a Public Supply. The water upon the 31st December was absolutely unfit for drinking purposes

without filtration. To show that the amount of surface water that obtained admission to the pipes was large the turbidity of the town supply did not absolutely cease for two days.

(Signed) JOHN TUBB THOMAS, D.P.H., D.S.M.  
County Medical Officer.

Although no works for the treatment of sewage have been executed it has been decided to adopt the bacterial treatment of sewage, and negotiations are in progress for acquiring a site. Mr. W. J. Dibdin was called in to advise the Council as to the practicability of treating the manufacturing refuse and domestic sewage, and he reported in favour of the bacterial system.

In my monthly report in July I drew the Council's attention to the unsatisfactory condition of several of the road sinks. The nuisance caused by bad smells arising from these sinks, in the summer especially, is very objectionable. This should be remedied, and the old form of sink, which is most unsatisfactory, should be abolished and gullies substituted.

I have inspected the Slaughter-houses, Bake-houses, and common Lodging-houses in the course of my routine work, and I have invariably found them kept in a satisfactory condition.

The District has been inspected by me once a quarter, accompanied by the Inspector, with the result of a good deal of useful sanitary work being done.

The infectious diseases notified in the District during the year were 40, and included 17 of Scarlet-Fever (16 in 1899); 15 of Erysipelas (18 in 1899); 6 of Diphtheria (4 in 1899); and 2 of Enteric Fever (4 in 1899). Six out of the seventeen cases of Scarlet Fever notified were removed to the Fever Hospital.

Of the six cases of Diphtheria, the first was notified in January at Clarendon Gardens and was rapidly fatal. The sanitary arrangements were not satisfactory, these have since been remedied. The second in May at Bevan's Yard, the case was very mild in character, no cause could be found. The third, in June, (two cases) in Westbourne Road. These cases were also mild in character. The drains here and the outside W.C. were in a very bad condition, enough to account for the outbreak. They have since been put right. The fourth, also in June, occurred in

the same house at Clarendon Gardens as that notified in January. The fifth, also in June, at Prospect Place was no doubt infected from the stinking road sink outside the front door of the house.

Two cases of Enteric or Typhoid Fever were notified during the Year, both in Church Street. The first was notified in May. The smells arising from the W.C., &c. were very bad. This has since been put right. The second was notified in November; in this case no cause could be found for the infection. Both houses were supplied with the Company's water.

The Scarlet Fever cases have extended over the period from 1st January to the end of December. Fortunately they have been mainly of a mild type, but in this fact there is found one of the great difficulties in limiting the spread of the infection; for the mildest type of the disease has been frequently overlooked until the patient has been the means of infecting many others.

The disease known as Cancer, Malignant disease, shows considerable increase this year, 17 cases compared with 7 in 1899. The cause of this increase remains obscure.

The disease known as Pulmonary Consumption, or Phthisis shows also an increase, 10 deaths compared with 6 in 1899; other deaths from Tubercular diseases, however, show a decrease, 7 compared with 14 in 1899.

As it is now recognised that Consumption is a contagious disease, I should like to see the same added to the list of infectious disease, I would, however, make this distinction, viz:—That whilst the notification of the other infectious diseases is compulsory, that of Consumption should be voluntary. Gratuitous disinfection of rooms previously occupied by phthisical persons should be offered, and leaflets bearing on the subject should be distributed.

Attached to my Report is a table of Causes of, and Ages at Death during the Year 1900; and of Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1900.

I remain, Gentleman,

Your obedient servant,

**R. T. RICHARDSON, M.R.C.S. Eng., &c.,**  
F.R. Inst. P.H. M.O.H.,



## TABLE OF DEATHS.

During the Year 1900, in the Trowbridge Urban District, classified  
according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	DEATHS IN WHOLE DISTRICT AT SUBJOINED AGES.						
	All Ages.	Under 1.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and up- wards.
Measles .. .. .	2	2	..	..	..	..	..
Whooping-cough .. ..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria and membranous croup .. .. .	2	..	2	..	..	..	..
Enteritis .. .. .	4	3	..	..	..	1	..
Phthisis .. .. .	10	1	1	2	1	5	..
Other tubercular diseases ..	7	5	..	1	..	1	..
Cancer, malignant disease ..	17	..	..	..	..	8	9
Bronchitis .. .. .	18	3	3	1	..	4	7
Pneumonia .. .. .	12	3	2	1	1	3	2
Alcoholism .. .. .	2	..	..	..	..	1	1
Cirrhosis of liver } .. .. .	3	3	..	..	..	..	..
Premature birth .. .. .	19	1	..	..	..	5	13
Heart diseases .. .. .	4	..	..	1	..	2	1
Accidents (Inquests) .. .. .	1	..	..	..	..	..	1
Suicides (Inquests) .. .. .	12	2	..	..	..	2	8
Other Inquests .. .. .	57	2	3	1	0	17	34
All other causes .. .. .	171	25	12	7	2	49	76

### Cases of Infectious Disease notified in the Trow- bridge Urban District during the Year 1900.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.							No. of Cases removed to Hospital from Trowbridge
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.						
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.	65 and upw'ds	
Diphtheria . . .	6	..	1	4	1	..	..	..
Erysipelas .. ..	15	..	..	..	11	4	..	..
Scarlet Fever .. ..	17	..	..	17	..	..	..	6
Enteric Fever .. ..	2	..	..	..	..	2	..	..
TOTALS .. ..	40	..	1	21	12	6	..	6



To the Chairman and Members  
OF THE  
Trowbridge Urban District Council.

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GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Report for the past Year as Surveyor and Inspector of Nuisances.

**Footpaths.**

The re-laying of a number of main road footpaths was proceeded with. One side of Mortimer Street was flagged, kerbed, and channelled. Stallard Street from Gloucester Road to the "Bell Inn," Bradford Road from the Flower Show Field to the entrance of Trinity Church, Castle Street from the entrance to Upper Mills to Mr. W. Jackson's shop, Roundstone Street from "Carpenters' Arms Inn" to The Halve, Union Street from Church Street to Zion Chapel, were kerbed and paved with cement concrete in situ. In West Ashton Road the kerb was re-set and the path laid with tarpaving. In Frome Road, adjoining the Rock Estate, new kerb was laid where required, and the remainder re-set ready for tarpaving this coming season. The remaining parts of Newtown were kerbed and channelled.

**Clarendon.**

The two roads in Clarendon have been made up, the old kerb re-set, new channelling fixed, and the footpaths tarpaved.

**Building.**

There has been no great activity shewn in the building of houses, the principal work being the erection of several large

buildings, such as the Technical School, the new British School, a brewery for Messrs. J. H. & H. Blake, and large additions to the works of Messrs. G. N. Haden & Sons. The erection of the Cottage Homes in Polebarn Road to the memory of Lady Brown is a notable addition to the buildings of a public character. The number of plans passed was as follows:—

Dwelling Houses and Business Premises	...	...	...	26
Additions, Alterations, and small Erections		...	...	7
				<hr/>
		Total	...	33

The number of dwelling houses built and passed for occupation during the year was 16.

### Sanitary.

The following table sets forth the particulars of the work of sanitary inspection, and the work done in abating nuisances:—

Complaints received	...	...	...	...	...	17
Common Lodging Houses inspected	...	...	...	...	...	2
Slaughter Houses inspected	...	...	...	...	...	12
Nuisances from Animals improperly kept	...	...	...	...	...	21
Notices served to abate Nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	187
Notices complied with	...	...	...	...	...	163
Notices outstanding	...	...	...	...	...	24

In addition to my own periodical inspections, I have, once a quarter, in company with the Medical Officer of Health, inspected the Slaughter Houses and Common Lodging Houses. The greatest number of nuisances arose from foul W.C. pans, defective drains and sinks, and the keeping of pigs.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

F. E. G. BRADSHAW.

Town Hall,

February, 1901.



